

FUND MEMORANDUM NO. 325

STRICTLY PRIVATE

Section 4 -- Czechoslovak

November 1, 1961

MONTHLY REPORT FOR OCTOBER, 1961

Czechoslovak

Following the conclusion of negotiations between representatives of the National Committee of Free Czechoslovakia and the Council of Free Czechoslovakia at the end of September, discussions were inaugurated among political members of Czechoslovak political parties. These new discussions began primarily at the suggestion of Dr. Frickhauer. No results of any importance have been reported to the Fund. The talks have now been discontinued until November 2nd, but the Fund entertains little hope that agreement will be reached unless major changes in attitude develop among participating individuals.

As reported in Fund Memorandum No. 321, Dr. Gensky and Dr. Janek visited the Fund's offices on October 24th. Since that time, the Fund has received a letter from the Council stating that the Executive Board had heard the report of Dr. Gensky concerning the meeting and had "adopted a positive attitude" to the suggestions communicated by the Fund representative. The Executive Board promises to study the proposal carefully and indicates that it will be a topic for discussion at the November 2nd meeting of political representatives.

Czech National Committee

(Gunsel) Lev Vysnka's Czech National Committee has been divided by the defection of Vladimir Pekelsky, former representative in Germany of the National Committee and co-signer with Vysnka of the Czechoslovak-U.S. agreement in 1960. Mr. Pekelsky and his followers have not established an organization

calling itself the Association of Czech Democratic Federalists with headquarters in Munich. The nucleus of the Democratic Federalists is represented by the Central Committee of the Czech National Group in Germany, and the Federalists hope to work in cooperation with Czech National Group bodies in other nations which are affiliated with the Group in Germany. Pekar's faction has taken this step after claiming that the Czech National Committee is undemocratic, unrepresentative, lacking in a constructive program, and is in isolation from other Czech exiles. General Pechala has denounced the Pekar faction and has stated that he withdrew Pekar's right to represent him in Germany last August 1941.

The YMC believes that this new division may weaken both Czech elements involved as well as the Sudeten Germans. The Czech National Committee has never been a major factor in Czech exile politics and only achieved some degree of importance following the signature of the agreement with the Sudeten Germans. Most Czech exiles have looked upon Pechala's organization as being relatively small, unimportant and of a chauvinistic kind. The Sudeten Germans signed the pact with the Czech National Committee because at that time the Sudeten Germans found it impossible to work with any other Czech group. Opinion of the Sudeten German press to the split indicates support of the Pekar Committee. However, Pechala's ground is now less firm than before, and with the changing attitudes of certain leaders of other Czechoslovak exile bodies toward the Sudeten German problem, his Committee will very likely find that it has lost its chance to become of any significance.

YMC Memoranda Submitted during October, 1941

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